

*Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve
the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he
or she sends forth a tiny ripple of hope...
Those ripples build a current
which can sweep down
the mightiest walls
of resistance.*

Robert F. Kennedy



THE LAW FIRM OF
**MEHRI
&
SKALET**
PLLC

*Seeking Justice
Serving the Public Interest*

History of **MEHRI & SKALET**

Mehri & Skalet was founded in the aftermath of what was then the largest race discrimination settlement with a corporate employer in history—*Roberts v. Texaco Inc.*, valued at \$176 million.

Following that victory, Cyrus Mehri, a lead counsel for the plaintiffs in that case, struck out on his own. He created a new firm with a single goal—use the law to serve the public interest.

In 1999, the new firm filed a race discrimination class action against Coca-Cola. *Ingram v. The Coca-Cola Company* built on the Texaco case, won \$192.5 million for plaintiffs, and created far-reaching programmatic reforms for all Coca-Cola employees. Those reforms set a new gold standard for employment and human resource practices.

In 2001, Mr. Mehri and Steven Skalet, a well-known Washington attorney who specializes in consumer and financial fraud law, joined forces to create Mehri & Skalet, PLLC. Mehri & Skalet now has a thriving practice representing employees, consumers, investors, labor organizations, citizen groups and small businesses in complex, high-impact litigation against powerful corporate interests. True to its founding vision, M&S combines a focus on the public interest with an adherence to the law's highest standards of quality and integrity.

Founding **PARTNERS**



*Steven A. Skalet
and Cyrus Mehri*

Cyrus Mehri, named one of “Washington’s Ten Most Feared Lawyers” by *Regardie’s Power* magazine, has been litigating class actions on behalf of employees, defrauded investors, pensioners, consumers and small businesses since 1989. His groundbreaking work led Trial Lawyers for Public Justice to twice name Mr. Mehri a finalist for “Trial Lawyer of the Year.” *Fast Company* magazine described Mr. Mehri as “someone whose impact on corporate America is undeniable.” Mr. Mehri is a graduate of Cornell Law School.

Steven A. Skalet has over thirty years of experience in class action litigation and transactional work, emphasizing consumer and banking fraud and real estate. His former firm, Kass, Skalet, Segan, Spevack, & Van Grack, focused on real estate and litigation, with an emphasis on consumer class actions under the Truth-in-Lending and the Equal Credit Opportunity Acts. Mr. Skalet has twice been awarded the Public Advocate Award from the Community Association Institute for his work on District of Columbia legislation. Mr. Skalet serves on the board of Public Justice, P.C. Mr. Skalet is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Getting RESULTS

SECURITIES FRAUD

- M&S helped prosecute a securities fraud case against AOL Time Warner. One of the largest such cases in U.S. history, it settled for \$2.4 billion.
- In *In re Bolar Pharmaceutical*, Mr. Mehri helped return over \$25 million to defrauded shareholders from a company which inflated share prices with false and misleading information about generic drug approvals.

DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS

- National settlement against Hewlett Packard for defective computers that would frequently crash or freeze. Over \$15.3 million offered to approximately 350,000 purchasers.
- National settlement against Mercury Marine for selling outboard engines that had design defects. All class members received an extended warranty and/or rebates, valued at \$15.8 million.
- National restraining order against Firestone, requiring the company to reimburse the cost of non-Firestone replacement tires.

CHALLENGING INEQUITY IN THE WORKPLACE

- M&S achieved a major monetary settlement on behalf of female financial brokers at Morgan Stanley. The settlement calls for sweeping reforms in the distribution of business opportunities. These changes have been hailed as novel and far reaching, and will serve as a model for an industry troubled by gender inequity.
- M&S attorneys found racial bias in the selection procedures for highly coveted apprenticeships as electricians, millwrights and other skilled positions. One case, *Robinson v. Ford Motor Company*, will create a record number of apprenticeship positions—279—for African-American employees and establish a new state of the art selection procedure.
- At a number of companies, we've also helped rectify bias by sales force managers, who are often given unfettered discretion in creating business opportunities.

RESTORING WORKER PENSION PLANS

In *Florin v. NationsBank*, M&S attorneys were instrumental in restoring \$16 million to a worker pension plan that was bilked by company insiders at Simmons Mattress Company.

CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS

Mr. Skalet helped vindicate defrauded homebuyers in Maryland who had been sold condominiums in a project with extensive structural defects that required repairs of approximately \$8 million.

SHAREHOLDERS PROXY RESOLUTIONS

In *Roosevelt v. E. I. Dupont de Nemours and Co.*, Mr. Mehri sought to force Dupont to accelerate the end of the production of chlorofluorocarbons, which cause ozone depletion and global warming. The company blocked a shareholders proxy resolution mandating this change, but Mr. Mehri helped ensure that shareholders could secure their voting rights in federal court.

CONSUMER AND BUSINESS FRAUD

- Won relief for over 200,000 customers against car dealership groups that overcharged the cost of titling and registering vehicles.
- Brought successful class action suit against Verizon-New Jersey for charging customers for inoperable services.
- Won relief for approximately 44,000 customers when Verizon-New Jersey overcharged small businesses for telephone service.